

THE EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC.

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# THE BLOWN FUSE

CLUB STATION W6CUS

VOLUME LX NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER 2007



## EBARC Meeting

September 14, 2007  
7:30 p.m.

"Contesting Fun!"  
Dean Straw, N6BV



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club meets the second Friday of each month  
at the Salvation Army, 4600 Appian Way, El Sobrante.

The Executive Board meets the Monday before each general meeting at 7:30 p.m.  
at 6527 Arlington Blvd., Richmond. For directions call 415-305-2547.

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*The Blown Fuse* is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is free to its members. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ

Deadline for Oct. issue: Tuesday, Sep. 25<sup>th</sup>

[Articles may be submitted by "snail" mail, by dictation over the 'phone 510-741-8227, or by e-mail to aa6xz@earthlink.net]

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## **President's Sidetone**

### **Jack Burris, K6JEB**

We had another terrific presentation in August. Our own Dr. Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ, gave a talk about his DXpedition to Swains Island (N8S) as well as excursions to American Samoa (KH8) and Western Samoa (5W0CK). I'm starting to think I might get DXCC just by working Dr Alan every time he leaves the country. Is there a Worked Alan Everywhere award?

This month we are fortunate to have the venerable Dean Straw, N6BV, present on contesting. Dean is not only a contester extraordinaire, he's also one of the ARRL Senior Assistant Technical Editors. Those of you who have seen the August QST will also note that Dean is quite central to the latest edition of the ARRL *Antenna Book*.

In case you think contesting isn't for you, think again. What other ham activity can test you and your station for emergency preparedness, operating long hours, and getting a message across as efficiently as possible in tough conditions? If you're a DXer, you probably already know contests are a great way to work a new country or zone or grid.

I find contesting a great way to test my station as well as my endurance. I think one of the crossover elements that might be of interest to those kids you see obsessing over the latest video game is the competitive nature of contesting. In many ways, it's a game played across your dial. Have you thought about the kids you know (young and old) who enjoy games, and how that might be a great 'in' for them to ham radio?

Contesting is also a great way to work new countries. Many times DXpeditions are planned around some of the more popular contests. We may be at the very extended bottom of the sunspot cycle, but it's amazing how much the bands come alive during these events. And sometimes, YOU may even be at the receiving end of a pile-up if you happen to represent a needed multiplier.

Lastly, I would like to cordially invite each of you to participate in the California QSO Party. Begins: 1600 UTC - 6 October 2007, Ends: 2200 UTC - 7 October 2007. See [www.cqp.org](http://www.cqp.org) for more information.

Bring your friends to the next meeting! The more the merrier!

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## **September Program**

### **Ron Smith, KE6RS**

Our guest speaker on September 14<sup>th</sup> will be Dean Straw, N6BV. Dean is editor of *The ARRL Antenna Book*, and will be speaking to us about contesting. Please pass the word to your ham friends, and invite them to join us for this very special program.

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Many thanks to Michael McMillan, K6MCM, for proofreading this month's *Blown Fuse*.

# General Meeting Minutes

**August 10, 2007**

**Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, Acting Secretary**

The meeting was called to order at 1935 hrs by President Jack Burris. There were 17 members or guests in attendance. Jack reported that First Vice President, Ron Smith, would arrive later.

Second Vice President, Randy Jenkins, reported that refreshments will be available at the break, and that he is acting as interim Secretary for the evening.

Third Vice President, Sharon Primbsch, was not present.

Joe Lee reported that badges for those who ordered them are available. He also asked that anyone who had knowledge of silent keys, to please report it to him.

Peter Hoffman reported that he is in the final tabulation stages for our Field Day score, and it looked like we had around 6000 points.

Station Manager, Stanton Gleason, reported on a communications drill held by the Red Cross at the club station.

ARRL East Bay Section Manager, Ti-Michele Connelly, commented that she is always looking for public service events to publicize and amateur volunteers to participate in them. Ti reported on many new and upgraded amateur operators in the East Bay Section, and on the need to mentor new hams. Ti will be able to supply a list of newly licensed amateurs to the club if requested. Ti also commented on the progress of the League's lawsuit against the FCC regarding the BPL regulations that were adopted.

Trustee Ralph Hall reported that everything was okay [*with W6CUS license – Ed.*].

Alan Eshelman commented on a number of outstanding QSL requests for PSK work at the

club station. Alan also commented on the California QSO Party, which will occur on the first weekend in October.

The minutes of the previous month's meeting were approved as published in *The Blown Fuse*.

Jack reported that next month's meeting will feature Dean Straw, N6VB, as the program speaker.

New Business: A motion was made, seconded, and passed to renew our annual donation of \$400 to the Salvation Army.

Nominations for the vacant post of Secretary were opened. After discussion, Peter Hoffman volunteered to fill out the post of Secretary for the rest of the year. Peter was elected by acclamation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1954 hrs.

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## **4Cs/EBARC Picnic Sunday, Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>!**

Fun, food, and frolic are yours at Miller-Knox Park in Point Richmond. Family members (including kids and significant others) are welcome. Socializing starts about 11 a.m., and "eats" noonish+. Go southwest on Garrard Blvd. through the tunnel and onto Dornan Drive. We gather near the south end of the park. There's no cost, since 4Cs and EBARC share most members. Help near serving time and help with cleanup will be appreciated. Bring sun block, jackets, hats, and your smile!

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Two antennas met on a roof, fell in love, and got married. The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent!

## Fall Technician & General Classes are in Alameda

Fall 2007 ham classes taught by EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA members will be held at the Alameda Fire Department Training Building at 431 Stardust Place, Alameda. The building is located on the old Navy base at the intersection of Midway and Rainbow, which is only a mile or so from the Webster St. tube.

**Technician License Class:** Five consecutive Tuesday evenings (9/25, 10/2, 10/9, 10/16, and 10/23) from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. local time. The (regularly-scheduled) VE session will be on Sunday morning, Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>; 9:00 a.m. at Kaiser building, 1950 Franklin, Oakland.

**General License Class:** Six consecutive Tuesday evenings (10/30, 11/6, 11/13, 11/20, 11/27, 12/4) from 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. local time. The special VE session for this class will be held Tuesday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at 431 Stardust Place, Alameda.

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## Foxhunting Near Lake Tahoe

Registration is now open for the Seventh USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding (ARDF), which take place September 14 - 16, 2007 at Camp Concord near South Lake Tahoe on the California/Nevada border. The best radio-orienteers in the USA will be there, but the courses will also be open to anyone at any radio foxhunting skill level, with or without a ham radio license. There will be an ARDF training camp nearby on September 12 - 13. The registration form and more information are at [www.homingin.com](http://www.homingin.com). For more info contact Joe Moell, K0OV, USA ARDF Coordinator, at [homingin@aol.com](mailto:homingin@aol.com).

Robert Vallio, W6RGG  
ARRL Pacific Division Director

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## Andy Oppel, N6AJO, ARRL Candidate

Andy Oppel, N6AJO, is running for re-election as the ARRL Pacific Division Vice Director. Contact him using [andy.oppel@gmail.com](mailto:andy.oppel@gmail.com), call him at 510-864-2299, or visit his web page at <http://www.andyoppel.com/N6AJO>.

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## Future Bay Area Events

- ARRL & MDARC's *PACIFICON 2007*, October 19-21, 2007, San Ramon Marriott Hotel, San Ramon, CA. For events, schedules, and ticket sales, see [www.pacificon.org](http://www.pacificon.org). For hotel reservations, call 800-228-9290 before 10/4/07, and mention the Pacificon 2007 rate of \$84.
- Livermore Swap Meet, 1st Sunday of each month at Robertson Park, 7 a.m. to noon, all year. Talk-in 147.045 MHz. Info: Robert 925-560-5646 (h). More info at [www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html](http://www.livermoreark.org/swap/swap.html)
- South Bay Electronics Flea Market, 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, March through October, De Anza College, Cupertino. Details at [www.asvaro.org](http://www.asvaro.org). Talk-in on 145.27 MHz (-, 100 Hz PL).
- EBARC, ORCA, and ARCA sponsor joint ARRL VEC Amateur Radio Test Sessions quarterly at 9 a.m. The remaining session for 2007 will be Sunday Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>. Exams are held in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room of the Kaiser Building, 1950 Franklin, Oakland (1 block from the 19<sup>th</sup> St. BART station). The 2007 fee (and retest fee) remains at \$14. For info call 510-846-1587 or 510-741-8227.
- CoCoCo RACES Training: Details, RACES net, 6:45 p.m., Thursdays on 145.11 MHz.

The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$25 for individual membership, \$30 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, call (510) 233-7509, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page [www.eastbayarc.org](http://www.eastbayarc.org), or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. The East Bay Amateur Radio Club maintains a club station, W6CUS, at 3200 Macdonald Ave., Richmond. The packet station, W6CUS-1, is on 145.630 Mhz, and is linked to the EAST BAY LAN (EBAY) on 223.720 Mhz.

## 2007 EAST BAY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB EXECUTIVE BOARD

Jack Burris, K6JEB, President .....	415-305-2547
Ron Smith, KE6RS, 1 <sup>st</sup> VP - Program Chair.....	724-5099
Randy Jenkins, KA6BQF, 2 <sup>nd</sup> VP – Hospitality Chair .....	526-4089
Sharon Primbsch, AA6XZ, 3 <sup>rd</sup> VP - Membership / <i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor.....	741-8227
Gordon Parsons, NU6W, Treasurer / Finance Committee Chair.....	785-4290
Peter Hoffman, W6DEI, Secretary, Field Day Chair, Web Site Guru, and Publicity Chair.....	525-0694
Ralph Hall, W6EFD, W6CUS Trustee / SysOp .....	232-0727
Stanton Gleason, KD6SWU, Club Station Manager, Member-at-Large ..	385-4044
John Wood, N6JDW, Education Chair, Member-at-Large.....	741-7050
Bob Bowling, K6ZLG, Member-at-Large .....	233-5749
Joe Lee, W6DOB, Silent Key Chair.....	724-0533
Awards Chair.....	
Social & Digital Committees Chair.....	
Legislative Affairs .....	
RFI Committee Chair.....	
Historian .....	

## AMATEUR RADIO NETS

NET	DAYS	LOCAL TIME	FREQ, MHZ
West Contra Costa County ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	1845 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
EBARC "Explore Net" (HF)	Mon	1930 (USB)	28.425
KARO/ECHO ARES/RACES Net	Thurs	~1900 simplex	146.415
NALCO RACES/ARES Net	Thurs	1915 (PL 131.8+)	440.900
Oakland ARES Emergency Communications Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 77-)	146.880
Contra Costa Communications Club Net	Thurs	1930 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Tech Net	Thurs	2000 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
"Over the Hill Gang" Breakfast/Commute Net	Mo-Fr	0710 (PL 82.5-)	145.110
Northern Calif. Net VHF Session	Daily	1930 (PL 107.2-)	145.410
"Going Home Group"	Mo-Fr	1600 (PL 82.5-)	145.110

Asst. EC West CoCoCo: Steve Adams, KF6WNH, [sadams0584@aol.com](mailto:sadams0584@aol.com); home: 510-236-9770  
work: 510-893-7900 x 270; pager 510-765-4618. Frequencies: #1=145.110-, #2=147.570s.